

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 719**

ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

**INTERLINKING OF RIVERS IN ODISHA**

719. SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has considered interlinking of rivers in the State of Odisha to address water scarcity and improve irrigation;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposed river interlinking projects in the State;
- (c) the estimated costs and timelines for implementation of these projects; and
- (d) the steps being taken to address any environmental and social concerns related to these projects?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) to (c)** The Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) in the year 1980 to transfer water from surplus basins to water deficit basins / areas. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with the work of Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) under the NPP. Thirty (30) ILR projects have been identified under the NPP, which, inter alia, include three (3) projects, envisaged to benefit the State of Odisha as well. The details of benefits of these three (3) ILR Projects along with their estimated cost are given at **Annexure**.

Timelines / schedule of completion of ILR Projects depends upon the party States arriving at a consensus for the respective ILR projects and signing of the link specific Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) for their implementation.

**(d)** To address the environmental and social concerns, if any, related to the ILR projects, detailed Environmental Impact Study (EIA) is done at the stage of preparation of FRs and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). EIA study is aimed at identifying positive and negative impacts of the project on physical, ecological and socio-economic environment. Detailed study on soil type, climate type, ground water quality, biological environment, floral diversity, forests and wildlife, ground water recharge, change of hydrological regime of river, public health aspects, employment potential generation, project affected families, submergence area, etc. is done at stage of preparation of DPRs along with a proposal for Environment Management Plan to mitigate the assessed impacts.

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**ANNEXURE**

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 719 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 10.02.2025 REGARDING “INTERLINKING OF RIVERS IN ODISHA”

**DETAILS OF BENEFITS OF ILR PROJECTS IN ODISHA UNDER THE NPP**

Sl.No.	Name	States benefited	Annual Irrigation (Lakh hectare)	Domestic & Industrial (Million Cubic Metres)	Hydro power (Mega watt)	Estimated Cost	Status
1	a. Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Odisha	4.43	802	445	-	FR completed
	b. Alternate Mahanadi (Barmul) - Rushikulya - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	AP and Odisha	6.25 (0.91 + 3.52 + 1.82*)	700 + 125*	210 + 240*	Rs. 54019 crores at the 2018-19 price level (PL)	FR completed
2.	Ganga(Farakka) - Damodar-Subarnarekha link	West Bengal (WB), Odisha and Jharkhand	12.30 (11.18+ 0.39+ 0.73)	432	--	Rs. 87166.01 crores at the 2019-20 PL	FR completed
3.	Subarnarekha-Mahanadi link	WB and Odisha	2.16 (0.18+ 1.98)	198	20	Rs. 28644 crore at the 2019-20 PL	FR completed

\* Benefit to Odisha from 6 projects of Government of Odisha, envisaged to be integrated to Mahanadi (Barmul) – Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link Project.

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